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SENATE RESOLUTION 205  
By Crowe

A RESOLUTION to recognize Mrs. Mona Barron on the occasion  
of her retirement.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this legislative body should honor those citizens who in their years of work have performed with uncommon devotion and enthusiasm; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Mona Barron is one such estimable person who has served with distinction for 10 years as the Librarian at Unicoi Elementary School; she is taking a much deserved retirement after an illustrious 34-year career as an educator and librarian; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Barron is an active and important part of the Erwin community and the teaching profession, participating in numerous organizations and activities; she has served on the Steering Committee for Unicoi's Initial Accreditation and 1<sup>st</sup> School Improvement Plan, and is a well-informed and vocal advocate for school improvement; and

WHEREAS, she implemented the Accelerated Reading Program at Unicoi Elementary and trained her fellow teachers in the Program; she has also opened the library each month after school hours for parents and students to use; and

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WHEREAS, Mrs. Barron has been recognized many times for the excellence she exhibits in the classroom and the library; she was named Teacher of the Year in 2001 for Unicoi Elementary School, Grades K-4 and was recognized county-wide that same year as Teacher of the Year for Unicoi County, Grades K-4; and

WHEREAS, a firm believer in the value of education, Mrs. Barron earned her high school diploma in Clinton, South Carolina, and then attended Erskine College in Due West, South Carolina, earning a Bachelor of Arts degree. She performed graduate work at East Tennessee State University at Johnson City from 1971-72; and

WHEREAS, from 1968-70, she served astutely as Librarian of Troutman Elementary School in Troutman, North Carolina; from 1979-83, she worked at Unicoi County High School's Study Center in Erwin, and from 1982-83, she was the Librarian of Evans Elementary School in Erwin; and

WHEREAS, she served with distinction as the Librarian of Unicoi County High School from 1983-86, and she has served as Librarian at Unicoi Elementary School since 1992; during her exemplary tenure there, she also traveled to serve as Librarian at Love Chapel Elementary School from 1992-93, at Rock Creek Elementary School from 1993-95, and at Temple Hill Elementary School from 1995-98; she worked exclusively at Unicoi Elementary School since 1998; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Barron is known throughout Erin and Unicoi County as a loyal and true friend and a valuable employee of the Unicoi County School System; she is a staunch advocate for children, a highly-regarded and avid supporter of education, and an inspiration to all who are fortunate to know her; her supervisor, Dr. James M. (Mickey) Hatcher describes Mrs. Barron as an encouraging person, someone who can laugh at herself and with others, "while always exhibiting the warmth and kindness that each of us needs"; he also states, "I will miss Mrs. Barron more than she can imagine. There will be a great void at Unicoi Elementary next year. I only pray that God has made more than one of these individuals and He sees fit to send them our way. God bless you Mona. You are a true example of what a Christian lady should be"; and

WHEREAS, the daughter of the late Augustus Byrd and Margaret Copeland Blakely, Mrs. Mona Blakely Barron exemplifies the spirit and allegiance to family, community, and quality education that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; her father was a civic leader who was always involved with his community's young people and was dearly loved by them in return; her mother also loved children and served for many years as a respected and admired teacher in the community; and

WHEREAS, Mona enjoys the loving companionship of her devoted husband, Dr. Earle P. Barron, a retired Presbyterian Minister, who currently serves as an Interim Minister; their marriage has been blessed with three daughters, Dr. Sarah E. Barron Crowe (wife of our colleague, Senator Rusty Crowe), Margaret Barron Covington (wife of Dwight Covington), and Catherine A. Barron, both of whom followed in their mother's and grandmother's footsteps to serve with distinction as teachers. Dr. and Mrs. Barron also delight in their five grandchildren, Matthew, Patrick, Andrew, Katie, and John; and

WHEREAS, throughout her estimable career, Mrs. Barron has demonstrated a remarkable ability to motivate children to reach their potential, winning the unbridled respect and admiration of her fellow educators and her students and their parents alike; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, That we extend to Mrs. Mona Barron our best wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement and every continued success in her future endeavors as we pay tribute to her sterling career in education and library science.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.